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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

memo chrono

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO	X			
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO				
15	VC/NIC				
16	C/EA		X		
17	D-Exec Staff		X		
18	A/ES		X		
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	SUSPENSE		Date		

Remarks: Please provide comments to DCI ASAP.

STAT

10 NOV 86
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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry
86- 5196

10 November 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, EA Division, DO

FROM: DCI

SUBJECT: POWs

Ted:

The Vice President sent the attached to me. Let me have your comments on it.

William J. Casey

Attachment:
Note from VP dtd 7 Nov 86,
w/Draft Summary of National
Vietnam Veterans Coalition
Press Conference (date unknown)

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11-7-86
3 PM

The Vice President

of the United States of America

Bill — After our talk on phone this came in today
Top & p-3 patently false
p-4 — patently untrue vis CIA Ims
sure RB

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DRAFT

PRESS CONFERENCE, National Vietnam Veterans Coalition

Seated at the head table with titles:

Thomas Burch, Chairman, National Vietnam Veterans Coalition
Son Sann - President, Khmer Rouge
Lee Quoc Tuy - Commander-in-Chief, Vietnamese Resistance
General Boussarth - President of the United Lao National Liberation Front
John Parsels - Former POW, Chairman Live POW Committee , National League of Families
Dr. Pareicia Aloot - POW Daughter, Former National League of Family
John Brown - Chairman, NVVC, Sky Hook II

Also present at the news conference were Col. Earl Hopper (who later came and sat at the head table), Patty Skelly, Michael Van Atta, Mark Smith (who later came up to the head table and was asked to speak as well as Col. Hopper), and John Nevin.

Tom Burch read his opening statement, then continued on by saying that today, present for the news conference, they had resistance leaders who operate in Southeast Asia who know of overwhelming evidence of live POWs.

Introduced Son Sann

Sann - He opened his remarks by appealing to the American people. Spoke of the Freedom fighters currently occupying Cambodia. Stated how the people have been robbed of their resources, have taken their civilization away from them. Went on to say that he needs the support of the American people, no military support - support for th freedom fighters. He would assist in in locating American men who a missing. He went on to say that he would like an executive order put forward for the freedom fighters to assist in locating the POW/M

Burch then introduced General Boussarth

Boussarth - Opened by stating his background - former head of security for Royal Laotian Security from 1965- 1975. While in this position, he was tracking down approximately 200 live American POWs. Went on to say that Laos is ready to rise above the current system. That he

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was elected by the people to represent them and that he is committe to the establishment of a democratic government. Made two pledges:

1) Freedom for Laos from Vietnam and Kampuchea
2) Work with resistance forces in Vietnam & Kampuchea
3) Pledged to return the MIA's. To not allow the communists to cynically exploit the POWs. Went on to state that his highest priority is to seek live POWs.

Boussarth was asked by Tom Burch (twice and very slowly) is there was any doubt in his mind that the Pathet Lao are holding live POWs in Laos. Boussarth said no and his began to give incident of three live POWs asking for Chicken from the people - DID NOT ELABORATE. (when later asked by the press to elaborate, Burch interupted and said that this has not been confirmed but, if true, the details can not be discussed.) Boussarth went on to say that he wants to show the world that the Communists have lied with respects to the American POWs.

Burch then introduce Tuy. In part of his introduction, he stated that thi man came through Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Paris to be here with "us" this morning. Stated that Tuy is operating in Vietnam, has attacked two re-education camps and released Vietnamese prioners. He (Tuy) and his brother priinted Vietnamese currency (counterfit) to pay his troops and the Vietnamese people. Vietnamese captured his brother and killed him - and developed whole new currency system using the counterfit currency that Tuy developed.

TUY - (Came in waving to the cameras) Sent his warmest greetings to the American people on behalf of the suffering people and the freedom fighters. Went on about the POW/MIAs. Stated his conviction that they are still there - based on his troop operation in Vietnam. He went on to say that he would give an order to his troops to not spar any efforts in finding a POW. Holds to this commitment because he believes in human dignity. If "we" can give information, we will be happy to do so.

)It later came out in the press conference that all three of the "leaders" want support from the United States for actions they will take concerning POWs. The support ranged from military to clothes and food for their troo

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Tom Burch then introduced John Brown - Executive Director of Sky Hook II.

BROWN - Stated that in these recent weeks, he has had meetings with (taken part in meetings with) John Whitehead, Richard Allen, General Westmoreland, William Casey, and the Cardinal of New York. Stated that yesterday there was a conference at the White House involving the President, Vice PResident and Don Regan - who met with members of the private sector. These individuals in the private sector transmitted information to the Pres. etc., that effects the POW/MIA issue and the political situation of the United States for the next two years. Brown stated that Bush said that both he and the President are acting under the assumption that men may be held against their will. Brown went on to say that if this is true, then why is the chief negotiator to Hanoi someone who is relatively unknown (not like to Secretary of State) in addition to the other participant on these high level negotiations.

Tom Burch went on to introduce John Parsels "Chairman of the Live POW Committee for the National League of Families"

Parsels - Stated that he is hesitant to comment on the comments of the resistance leaders because he has not had a chance to speak to them. Went on to explain the Live POW Committee - that it was formed to put emphasis on the live POWs. He stated that he and many others feel that there are only two years left to resolve this issue. Afraid that when Pres. Reagan leaves office, the POW/MIA issue will be swept under the carpet. Stated that this committee will consider almost anything to get the men back.

Tom Burch then introduced Patty Aloot, POW/MIA daughter, former board member of the National League of Families.

Aloot - Stated that time is running out, because of the bureaucratic bunglin there are men still over there, that the Government inactions forces them to look to other options. Went on to state that there is an incident where POWs were rescued. Two died in the attempt, one survived, came back to the U.S. and died - Larry Akins.

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Thomas Burch went on to tell the Press that Boussarth had compiled a list of U.S. servicemen (with location) who he knew were alive. Provided this to the U.S. government - no action was taken.

Introduced Mark Smith.

SMITH - Amazed to see how government military officials lack the courage to stand up and be counted when they know of information pertainin to live POWs. Went on about the controversy of the Tighe Report. Stated that the team did not know how they were going to report their findings and that they would have to soften it up. Went on to state that those who listening to "Richard Childress who is sitting on his but in the White House and Ann Mills Griffiths of NLF telling you our governmetn is attempting to verify all reports is filling you with alot of bull". If you are accepting that, the you are accepting "crap" from the U.S. government. If we don't threaten, then the men will never get home.

Burch went on to state that immobilization must be done to extract these men - and that we need more of a commitment from the USG. That its a matter of our (vietnam veterans and the American people) national honor. The way that there could be more of a commitment from the USG is by firing the people who have done nothing about the issue.

1) Replace the team which is handling it -
   Assistant Sec. of Defense Richard Armitage and
   Assistant Secretary of State.

Burch called for the resignation of these two men . Assist. Sec. of State would be replaced by former Congressman LeBoutillier and a replacement for Armitage would have to be someone knowledgeable on the issue.

A question was asked if the U.S. government tried to keep this Press conference from occurring. Burch stated that the CIA tried to keep the meeting from happening. Resistance leaders that were present felt threaten with regards to their aid programs. A point was made by the Press that the Resistance leaders had stated that the aid they get know comes from China - How could the US threaten that . Burch went on to state that the CIA is involved in Indochina. Gave the example that the U.S. provided 5,000 tons of rice to the Lao to extract remains from Pakse.

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A quetion was asked if there were any operations taking place now to recover live POWs. Tom Tran answered the question.

TRAN - This has been going on for 3-4 years. Flashed a picture of a group of people and said this gentlemen, pointing to one, has seen 40 live POWs in the Sung Lai area. That this gentleman is operating inside Vietnam.

Burch went on to state that they are not taking a risk and extracting now because they have current intelligence data which shows where they are. Went on to state that the Resistance Leaders are in debt to the Vietnam Veterans of the US and they want to do this for them.

McIntire stood up and stated that the US has been providing ~~food~~ aid to the Khmer Rouge. more than they received from Vietnam and Laos. "The U.S. has been providing food to stone murderers." Went on to state that it is a "well known fact that they are there." These guys, resistance groups, are willing to provide the information the President needs to take decisive action, and the U.S. government doesn't want it.

Boussarth got up to state that they do not have enough supplies to do the job - needs food and weapons for his troops. Stated that he has 10,000 troops: 2,000 in Laos with weapons, 8,000 waiting to go in but does not have supplies - Wants supplies!

Burch went on to state that these resistance leaders do not have the capability to knock over camps - that the Vietnam veterans were intially against this type of action - that Gov't to Gov't negotiations was the best way; however, the government hasn't done anything so we must bring them out. Went on to state that Don Regan has made the intiative to stonewall these actions.

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Boussarth went on to state that he belives he can bring a live POW out with the next year, with the proper supplies.

TUY - stated that he was operating inside Vietnam but that he needs the supplies of ffod and medicine for his troops. If we know where they are, we will send the troops. Knows of 40 who are still alive, but does not know where they are.

SMITH - He was asked about satallite photogaphs that he referred to earlier. Stated that in 1981 - 84, the US government was asked to get get satallite imagry photographs of certain locations given by resistance groups. The U.S. government (DIA) told Smith that this could not be done because the Soviets could inform the Vietnamese and the prisoners would be moved. Stated that the USG will give every effort and excuse to avoid resolution. Stated that if you can buy pictures of Chernobyl, why not of POW camps.

Burch introduced Col. Hopper

HOPPER - Weakest pasrt of the US government in recovering live POWs is the following:

1) US govt has not reconstituted covert intelligence capability operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Stated that the following officials admit to that: Bud McFarlane, Assist. Sec. of State and Assistant in DIA.
2) The US government has no leverage in negotiations(aid, trade, diplomatic relations). Until there is leverage, the negotiating process will fail.

Finally, he stated that we know by CIA documents, that we left men behind.

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